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The Washington Merry-Go-Round**Baker Labeled Product of Senate**

By Drew Pearson

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The investigation of Bobby Baker by the Senate Rules Committee should really be labeled an investigation of juvenile delinquency.

If the earnest Chairman of the Rules Committee, Sen. Everett Jordon of Saxapahaw, N. C., will consult any of the juvenile experts, he will find that the No. 1 cause of delinquency is the example of a boy's family, friends, and environment. The Senator from Saxapahaw is the son of a Methodist minister, raised in a God-fearing family, became a respectable textile manufacturer.

Bobby Baker, on the other hand, was raised by the Senate of the United States. As a Senate page boy from Pickens, S.C., he got up early in the morning to study in a Senate school, and after work was over on the Senate floor he studied further at a Senate school. His whole life was the Capitol and the Congress of the United States.

His was a great success story. Only 26 boys a session become Senate pages, and from this he rose to be secretary of the Senate Majority. But, like any other American boy, he took on the habits, the



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point of view of his environment.

Sex and the Senate

One of the rumors bruited around about Bobby pertains to sex. The whispers may be unfair. But, if true, Bobby saw sex and politics mixing all around him as he grew up as a Senate page boy. In fact, one member of an important investigating committee who sits in judgment on others once got a high school girl in a family way during a debating trip to St. Louis.

This writer has also reported how Mendel Rivers, the silver-thatched Representative from Charleston, S.C., scantily clad, chased women around the corridors of the Savoy Hotel in London and became so fond of alcohol during overseas junkets that the late Sam Rayburn banned him from junketing.

The same Rep. Rivers continues to occupy a high place in Congress. He even commands airplanes from the Pentagon to fly him on weekends back and forth to South Carolina—chiefly because he is a ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee and of the Appropriations Committee for the Armed Services.

Bobby Baker, who comes from the same State, has watched all this happen with impunity.

I do not know Bobby Baker well. I was embarrassed the last time I saw him—about a

year ago—that I did not recognize him and he had to introduce himself. But I do know something about juvenile delinquency—as president of the Big Brothers in this area—and I know what example and environment do to young people.

Bobby is accused, among other things, of maneuvering to insert an amendment in the tax laws that would favor his Carousel Motel in Ocean City, Md.

Bobby Baker was quite young when another big political maneuver took place.

Back in the days when President Franklin D. Roosevelt feared Hitler, Mussolini, and the Japanese warlords were fanning up World War II, he stopped the sale of 122 surplus Government ships to a Baltimore scrap iron dealer, Aaron Shapiro. Whereupon a powerful Senator, Millard Tydings of Maryland, threatened the Roosevelt Administration with investigation—and legislative obstruction. He used the same threatening tactics Rep. John Byrnes (R-Wis.) recently used to get a tax ruling favorable to the Wisconsin mortgage company in which Byrnes and Bobby Baker have a stock interest.

Tydings was so threatening that the Roosevelt Administration finally sold most of those ships to Japan.

They came back in the form of shot and shell against American boys at Pearl Harbor and Guadalcanal and Mid-

way and Leyte Bay a few years later.

And earlier this week, on Veterans Day, it was ironic that Washington society gathered at Laurel Race track to pay tribute to the Nation's dead, and watch The International, not knowing that the track had been built by the Shapiro family from the scrap iron profits they made from selling our surplus ships to Japan.

I hold no brief for Bobby Baker. But those who cast stones should remember that this is the atmosphere in which he grew up.

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